(c) Following steps have been taken to contain losses :

> Intensive cost control drive.

> Implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees in 1998 and 1999 which separated 3820 employees.

> Market-oriented production and product-mix.

> Increasing sales net work, more focus on customer satisfaction etc.

> As a part of financial and Business Restructuring package, approved by Government in February, 2000, Captive Power Plant-II of RSP identified for divestment, has been divested, while steps are on to divest the Fertilizer Plant.

ST Status to Gaddies and Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh

3779. ' SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of expert bodies to grant scheduled tribe status to Gaddies and Gujjars of the areas merged with Himachal Pradesh has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some time-limit has been fixed for expert bodies to submit the report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details can not be disclosed in public interest.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The expert bodies conduct independent investigations, and no time limit has been fixed. However, they are requested to furnish their comments as early as possible.

Extension of 73rd and 74th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 1992 to Hilly Scheduled Areas

3780. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to extend the 73rd and 74th Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1992 to the hilly scheduled areas;